

Appl. No. : 09/919,739
Filed : July 31, 2001

REMARKS

The preamble of Claim 3 has been amended to clarify its description of the claimed method. Claims 3, 6-8, and 19 remain pending in the application. The Applicants have carefully considered all of the Examiner's rejections but respectfully submit that the claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Rejections under § 112 – Indefiniteness

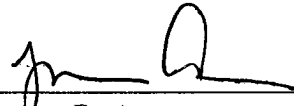
The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 6-8, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. The Examiner asserted that the preamble of Claim 3 was confusing because it was directed to a method of constructing a model while the methods steps were directed to choosing a marker molecule. The Applicants have accordingly amended the preamble to specify a method of choosing marker molecules useful for predicting molecular behavior. The Applicants respectfully submit that they have provided the clarification requested by the Examiner and that the pending claims are definite and allowable.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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